

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinators

**FROM:** Kim Smith and Beth Mackinem  
Education Associates  
Office of Safe Schools and Youth Services

**DATE:** May 12, 2006

**RE:** The April 26, 2006, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Spring  
Coordinators Meeting

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The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Spring Coordinators Workshop was held April 26, 2006, in Columbia. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the 2006–07 Safe and Drug-Free Schools grant application and process, as well as discuss other issues pertaining to school safety and drug prevention.

Currently, the grant application is in the final approval process and should be posted (along with related information) to the web in final form the week of May 8. Specific grant information and meeting notes are enclosed. For those districts that could not attend the meeting, you may contact our office for copies of the handouts.

A memo providing your district's anticipated allocation was sent on April 11, 2006. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the SDE should receive final notification of allocations in July. For planning purposes, please plan your activities based on the anticipated allocation. Please contact Julie Hicks at 803-734-8555 or email at [jhicks@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:jhicks@sde.state.sc.us) if you need a copy of the memo.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding your Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities grant program, please contact Kim Smith (phone: 803-734-8101 or email: [kwsmith@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:kwsmith@sde.state.sc.us)) or Beth Mackinem (phone: 803-734-6905 or email: [bmackine@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:bmackine@sde.state.sc.us)).

BM/KS:jh  
Enclosures

c: District Superintendent (without enclosures)

## **April 26, 2006, Meeting Notes**

The Office of Safe Schools and Youth Services at the State Department of Education (SDE) used this workshop opportunity to showcase areas of concern and interest related to safe and drug-free schools. The meeting included additional information concerning the Safe and Drug-Free Schools (SDFS) grant program and related training opportunities, updates on current legislative actions, the inclusion of Character Education in SDFS program initiatives, and considering the possibility of a Pandemic Bird Flu outbreak when revising and updating your district's safe school plan, the availability of data for program planning, and a discussion and assessment of district needs. Brief descriptions of the information provided are listed below.

### **SDFS Grant Program:**

Information pertaining the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant Program were discussed, all handouts and related information will be posted along with the grant application to the SDE Website the week of May 8, 2006.

1. The grant application and procedures were discussed. Points of interest and special notes specifically concerning the grant application are listed in the Grant Application Notes in this package.
2. An overview of the information required to make an amendment was presented at the meeting. Some notes to remember are:
  - a. A 10% deviation between categories is allowed – no amendment required.
  - b. Amendment requests must be made in writing (a fax is acceptable).
  - c. Once an amendment is approved, you will receive a faxed memo from our office along with the signed budget report form amendment.
3. The Office sends out information on a regular basis to Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinators through the mail and listserv. If you are not receiving information on a regular basis, please contact Julie Hicks at 803-734-8555 or email [jhicks@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:jhicks@sde.state.sc.us) and make sure we have your current mailing address and email address.

### **State Department of Education's Grants Office Opportunities for Districts:**

Gail Widner, Director of the Grants Office at the SDE provided an overview of the services the Grants Office provides to local school districts in finding, analyzing, and writing grants. Dr. Widner may be contacted at 803-734-5810 or [grants@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:grants@sde.state.sc.us).

## **Financial and Legislative Update:**

Beth Mackinem, Education Associate in the Office of Safe Schools and Youth Services at the SDE provided an update concerning current legislative actions:

- Youth Access Tobacco Prevention Act of 2006. This act was signed into law and goes into effect on August 21, 2006. A written copy of this law was provided and a link will be posted to our website.
- Bill S. 1049, relates to amending the disturbing schools statute, Section 16-17-420, Code of Laws of SC, 1976 to provide greater specificity. As of today, this bill has not passed. However, if the bill passes as written, local school and district staff will have to provide an intervention planning process similar to the current truancy intervention planning process, prior to charging a student with disturbing schools
- H. 3573, amends the Code of Laws of SC 1976 by adding Article 2 to Chapter 63 of Title 59 so as to enact the "Safe Schools Act" to prevent school harassment, intimidation, or bullying. As of today, this has not passed, but if it does pass, the local school districts will have to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying that will include the development of a training process and defining certain terms related to the Safe Schools Act.

## **Child Abuse Prevention Workshops:**

Julie Hicks in the Office of Safe Schools and Youth Services provided information concerning a free training opportunity for SDFS coordinators. In coordination with Prevent Child Abuse SC, the program is offering 10 free spaces per training site. For additional information concerning this training, contact Julie Hicks a 803-734-8555 or email [jhicks@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:jhicks@sde.state.sc.us).

## **Avian Influenza "Bird Flu":**

Sandra Tucker, Director of Nursing in Region 3 – Richland County Office of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and Environmental Control presented an overview concerning the possibility and outcomes of a pandemic of the avian influenza virus. Consideration should be taken when updating and revising district safe school plans.

## **Character Education:**

Joan Dickinson, Education Associate in the Office of Safe Schools and Youth Services at the SDE presented information and provided materials on Character Education. Ms. Dickinson spoke about the inclusion of character education curricula within safe and drug-free schools programming. For additional information, Ms. Dickinson can be reached at 803-734-4807 or email [jdickens@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:jdickens@sde.state.sc.us).

**Needs Assessment Discussion:**

Kim Smith and Beth Mackinem facilitated a needs assessment discussion with district coordinators concerning school and district level needs for services, programs, and technical assistance. A needs assessment form was provided to receive additional feedback on what types of programs and services the SDE could provide the districts in lieu of reduced funding from the US Department of Education. Results from the discussion and evaluation will be posted to the website in the near future. However, the office is conducting an ongoing needs assessment so a blank needs assessment form will be made available on the website for coordinators to complete and return at any time.

**Data Discussion:**

The Office provided each participant with a CD containing data collected from the Uniform Management Information Reporting System and raw data used to determine persistently dangerous schools for the Unsafe School Choice Option. To obtain a CD, please contact Julie Hicks.

**Organization of Local Education Agencies (LEAs):**

To provide a more constant point of contact concerning your districts SDFS grant program the school districts have been divided between Kim and Beth. Please refer to the enclosed map to determine which "team" your district is on and contact the education associate concerning specific grant or budget questions. However, do not hesitate to contact any office member should the other not be available.